

Weekly Views

Happy Thanksgiving!



Commissioner Lemmon, members of his Executive staff, and facility staff from the Correctional Industrial Facility, Indiana Women's Prison, Branchville, Putnamville, Wabash Valley, and Miami Correctional Facilities presented over 5,000 cards and 1,100 flags for distribution to overseas troops to Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman for her sixth annual "Hoosier Cheer for Our Heroes" program. The cards were made by offenders who participate in the PLUS program at each of these facilities. The cards and flags will be distributed to U.S. Armed Forces, particularly those overseas and units from Indiana. The folded pocket flags were provided by Putnamville's PLUS unit. Wabash Valley PLUS offender John Dean said, "being a vet and knowing the sacrifice they make, I just want them to know we care." See photo below.

Wabash Valley has "pinned" its newest Lieutenant! Trianito D. Foster, "T.D." has served with distinction at Wabash Valley since January of 1993 as an Officer and Correctional Sergeant. Lieutenant Foster is the Offender Transportation Coordinator and Video Court Operator. He is the DOC liaison and Officer in Charge for Regional Hospital and coordinates closely with Corizon. Doing the honors was Utility Captain Tim Riggle and IDOC Executive Director of Adult Facilities, James Basinger. Director Basinger said Lieutenant Foster has "an exceptional working relationship with area medical providers and local and state judiciary officials."

Pendleton Correctional Facility Officer Lawrence Schoettmer along with eight offenders assigned to the facility's Security Level One Housing Unit traveled to Westfield, IN for the purpose of planting over 200 trees and bushes at the Westfield Fire Department Training Center. Westfield Deputy Fire Chief Jason Lemons expressed appreciation to Correctional Officer Schoettmer and the minimum security level one offenders that assisted with this landscaping project. In a letter to the facility Deputy Chief Lemons stated, "Your assistance has been invaluable to us and we can't express enough how much it means to us and our community."

The PLUS unit at the Correctional Industrial Facility held a pizza fundraiser in partnership with Small Town Pizza in Pendleton, IN. Over \$1000 was raised. The PLUS offenders have chosen to donate half of the money to Erin's House. Erin's House, located in Ft. Wayne, IN, provides support services for children, teens and their families, who have suffered the death of a loved one.

Commissioner Bruce Lemmon delighted the staff, graduate offenders and their visitors as the honored Guest Speaker at the Westville Correctional Facility's PLUS graduation. The PLUS ceremony honored 26 graduate offenders who completed the extensive faith and character based program that encourages positive alternatives to criminal thinking. Refreshments, provided by the facility's Culinary Arts Vocational Education class, created a relaxed, joyous atmosphere where offenders celebrated their accomplishments with staff and their invited guests.

Westville Correctional Facility Superintendent Mark Levenhagen is pleased to announce the facility's newest Correctional Captain, Larry Steinbeck. Captain Steinbeck began his career as a Correctional Officer in 1991. Superintendent Levenhagen recognized the captain's professional correctional demeanor and his courteous, no nonsense approach to facility operations.

Students from DePauw University gave a choral and instrumental performance for offenders at the Putnamville Correctional Facility.

Twelve students and several Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility staff participated in a "Balloon Release for Survivors of Suicide" in conjunction with the "13th Annual International Survivors of Suicide Day". This event allows bereaved individuals whose loved one died from suicide to connect with other survivors. Each individual released a balloon on which they wrote the name of the deceased. During the launch process a poem was read aloud.

The offenders of the Indiana Women's Prison raised \$2,155.22 for the Indiana Canine Assistant Network. The ICAN handlers raised the money by selling chicken, potatoes, pop, and pizza to the other offenders. Everyone was pleased with the results. The money will be utilized towards the upkeep and training for the assistance dogs.

